

## Matthew 5:1–20

Peter Williams, Warden, Tyndale House, Cambridge, [www.tyndalehouse.com](http://www.tyndalehouse.com)

*Seeing the crowds, he went up on the mountain, and when he sat down, his disciples came to him. 2 And he opened his mouth and taught them, saying:*

- Who are the crowds? Who hears this?
- What verses in Matthew's gospel have the same themes?
- Who else in the Bible went up on a mountain like this?
- Where else in Matthew's gospel do we find mountains?

*3 Blessed are the poor [πτωχοί, ptochoi] in spirit [πνεύματι, pneumatī], for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.*

*4 Blessed are those who mourn [πενθοῦντες, penthoutēs], for they shall be comforted.*

*5 Blessed are the meek [πραεῖς, praeis], for they shall inherit the earth.*

*6 Blessed are those who hunger [πεινῶντες, peinontēs] and thirst [διψῶντες, dipsontēs] for righteousness [δικαιοσύνην, dikaiosunēn], for they shall be satisfied.*

*7 Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy.*

*8 Blessed are the pure [καθαροί, katharoi] in heart [καρδιά, kardia], for they shall see God.*

*9 Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.*

*10 Blessed are those who are persecuted [δεδιωγμένοι, dediogmenoi] for righteousness' [δικαιοσύνης, dikaiosunēs] sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.*

*11 Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. 12 Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.*

'The spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me to bring good news to the poor, he has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to those who are bound, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn.' (Isaiah 61:1–2)

'In just a little while, the wicked will be no more; though you look carefully at his place, he will not be there. But the meek shall inherit the land and delight themselves in abundant peace.' (Psalm 37:10–11)

'hungry and thirsty their soul fainted within them ... For he satisfies the longing soul, and the hungry soul he fills with good things.' (Psalm 107:5 and 9)

- What does the word 'blessed' mean in this context?
- Blessed opposite woe vs. blessed opposite cursed
- Why is this alliterated?
- What Old Testament texts do these remind us of?

- Why poor first? Why 'poor' here and 'poor in spirit' in Luke 6?
- Why 'those who mourn'? Is secular mourning equally blessed?
- How do the eight beatitudes function?
- What do they mean today?

13 *"You are the salt of the earth, but if salt has lost its taste, how shall its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything except to be thrown out and trampled under people's feet. 14 "You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. 15 Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. 16 In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.*

- What is the picture of salt literally about?
- What is the picture of light literally about?
- What does it mean to be salt and light?
- How does this relate to the context?

17 *Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them. 18 For truly, I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not an iota, not a dot, will pass from the Law until all is accomplished. 19 Therefore whoever relaxes one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do the same will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. 20 For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.*

The Hebrew alphabet

א ב ג ד ה ו ז ח ט י כ ל מ נ ס ע פ צ ק ר ש ת

- Fulfilment in Matthew's Gospel: 1:22, (2:5,) 2:15, 2:17, 3:3, 4:14, 8:17, 12:17, 13:35, 21:4, 27:9.
- Where do commandments appear in Matthew's Gospel?
- Where do 'teaching' and 'commandments' appear in Matthew's Gospel?
- Is the law abolished or not?
- For righteousness of scribes and Pharisees, see Matthew 23 (8 woes KJV; 7 woes most modern translations)
- 5 discourses in Matthew: 7:28–29; 11:1; 13:53; 19:1; 26:1

'For he himself is our peace, who has made us both one and has broken down in his flesh the dividing wall of hostility 15 by abolishing the law of commandments expressed in ordinances, that he might create in himself one new man in place of the two, so making peace, 16 and might reconcile us both to God in one body through the cross, thereby killing the hostility.' (Ephesians 2:14–16)